

Message Text

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PAGE 01 QUITO 02353 131940Z
ACTION DHA-02

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04
H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01
SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05 IGA-02 OMB-01 TRSE-00
/075 W

-----131945Z 058844 /44

P R 131735Z APR 77
FM AMEMBASSY QUITO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3887
INFO AMEMBASSY ASUNCION
AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
AMEMBASSY CARACAS
AMEMBASSY LA PAZ
AMEMBASSY LIMA
AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO
AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, SHUM, EC
SUBJECT: FOREIGN MINISTER COMMENTS ON USG HUMAN RIGHTS POLICY

1. IN A PRESS CONFERENCE APRIL 9 AT THE BUENOS AIRES AIRPORT
AND AGAIN IN A CONFERENCE APRIL 11 IN QUITO, FONMIN JORGE
SALVADOR CRITICIZED THE MANNER IN WHICH THE USG HAS CARRIED OUT
ITS HUMAN RIGHTS INITIATIVE. IN PRACTICALLY IDENTICAL COMMENTS,
SALVADOR MAINTAINED THAT A COUNTRY'S BILATERAL FOREIGN POLICY
SHOULD NOT REVOLVE AROUND THE PROBLEM OF HUMAN RIGHTS. HE NOTED
THAT THE UN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION EXISTS TO FURTHER HUMAN
RIGHTS GOALS AND RECOMMENDED THAT THE U.S. PURSUE ITS EFFORTS
THROUGH THAT CHANNEL. THE FACT THAT THE COMMISSION HAS BEEN
EXCESSIVELY POLITICIZED AND HAS DISTORTED THE REAL HUMAN RIGHTS
ISSUES IS NOT SUFFICIENT REASON TO ABANDON IT, SAID SALVADOR.

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INSTEAD, EFFORTS SHOULD BE MADE TO REFORM THAT COMMISSION.
SALVADOR ADDED THAT ALLEGED HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS IN
LATIN AMERICA WERE BEING EXAMINED WITH A MICROSCOPE WHILE
"TERRIBLE VIOLATIONS" IN OTHER AREAS WERE BEING IGNORED.
HE REAFFIRMED ECUADOR'S POLICY OF DEFENSE AND SUPPORT OF
HUMAN RIGHTS.

2. COMMENT: SALVADOR'S COMMENTS REFLECT VERY REAL CONCERNS WITHIN ECUADOR OVER THE INTER-HEMISPHERIC IMPLICATIONS OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS PROBLEM. ECUADOR FEELS ITS NATIONAL SECURITY THREATENED BY PERU AND DEPENDS HEAVILY ON GOOD RELATIONS WITH SOUTHERN CONE COUNTRIES, ESPECIALLY CHILE, IN ORDER TO HELP BLUNT THAT THREAT. AT THE SAME TIME, THE SOUTHERN CONE HAS BEEN MAKING STRONG EFFORTS TO ENLIST ECUADOR, WHICH HAS A RELATIVELY CLEAN HUMAN RIGHTS RECORD, IN A REGIONAL CAMPAIGN AGAINST THE US INITIATIVES. SALVADOR'S COMMENTS WERE MADE IN A CONTEXT OF AN OFFICIAL VISIT TO ARGENTINA (SIMILAR VISITS ARE PLANNED TO CHILE, URUGUAY AND BRAZIL LATER THIS MONTH). AND, UNDOUBTEDLY HE FELT OBLIGED TO MAKE SOME STATEMENTS ON HUMAN RIGHTS. HE TOOK THE ROUTE OF RELATIVELY MILD CRITICISM OF THE US IN THE FORM OF A RECOMMENDATION THAT WE CONCENTRATE OUR EFFORTS VIA THE UN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION.

3. THE FOREIGN MINISTER AND THE AMBASSADOR DISCUSSED HUMAN RIGHTS PRIVATELY SEVERAL WEEKS AGO. SALVADOR EXPRESSED PRIDE IN HIS OWN COUNTRY'S GOOD RECORD IN THIS FIELD AND SATISFACTION WITH PRESIDENT CARTER'S DESIRE TO IMPROVE HUMAN RIGHTS, WHILE AT THE SAME TIME EXPRESSING FEAR THAT THE "UNILATERAL" APPROACH OF THE US TO THE PROBLEM (E.G., CUTTING FOREIGN AID AND PUBLIC CRITICISM OF SPECIFIC COUNTRIES) WAS POLARIZING LATIN AMERICA AND PUTTING LIBERTARIAN REGIMES IN THE NORTH OF THE CONTINENT IN A DIFFICULT POSITION OF HAVING TO CHOOSE SIDES. THE AMBASSADOR INTENDS TO RENEW HIS DIALOGUE WITH THE FOREIGN MINISTER ON THIS SUBJECT TO SEEK HIS IDEAS ON HOW WE CAN COOPERATE IN PROMOTED OFFICIAL USE

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TING HUMAN RIGHTS WHILE MINIMIZING THE NEGATIVE IMPACT ON US/LATIN AMERICAN RELATIONS THAT HE FEARS.
BLOOMFIELD

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 13-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977QUITO02353
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770128-0758
Format: TEL
From: QUITO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770461/aaaacbdh.tel
Line Count: 100
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
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